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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,024	03/10/2004	Sylvain Cloarec	P25006	2123
7055	7590	04/11/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/796,024

Applicant(s)

CLOAREC ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Harvey

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4-1-04 ( Preliminary Amendment ).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,20 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 6-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3-10-04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-1-04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***DETAILED ACTION***

***Claim Cancellations***

- The cancellation of claim 1 has been made of record.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

- The Information Disclosure statement(s) and related documents that were filed on 4-1-04 have been considered.

***Priority***

- Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

- The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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\*\* Claim(s) 3, 4 and 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Itah et al. ( 6030235 ) from applicant's IDS dated 4-1-04.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 3, Ittah shows (cover sheet)

a connector arrangement that has a first housing member 3 and a second housing member,

the second housing 2 member that has studs 5 arranged on two opposite walls;

a locking lever 10 has a U-shaped member 11 that includes two flanges 13 and a holding strip portion 12;

the locking lever 10 being movably mounted to two walls of the first housing member;

the locking lever being movable at least between a first position wherein the cam surfaces are disengaged from the studs 5 to allow insertion of the first housing member 3 into the second housing 2 member and a locking position in which said studs 5 engage with said cam surfaces;

an abutment 22;

a first edge 23 of the holding strip portion 12 being adapted to bear against the abutment;  
and

a locking arrangement 27 adapted to lock the locking lever 10 in the locking position.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 4, Ittah shows (cover sheet) the holding strip portion 12 has, in the vicinity of each of the two flanges, at least one notch 32 ( figure 2 ) of circular arc shape.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 6, Ittah shows ( figure 2 ) the locking arrangement has a projection 26 arranged on a second opposite edge 24 of the holding strip portion 12 and a cooperating lug 27.

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-- In reference to Claim(s) 7, Ittah shows the cooperating lug is arranged on an elastic locking tab 28.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 8, Ittah shows (cover sheet) the first housing member 3 is a male housing member.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 9, Ittah shows (cover sheet) the second housing 2 member is a female housing member.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 10, Ittah shows (cover sheet) the two opposite walls 2a are parallel to one another.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 11, Ittah shows (cover sheet) each of the studs 5 has a head 6 which is at least one of partially circular and partially curved.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 12, Ittah shows (cover sheet) the two flanges 13 are parallel to one another.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 13, Ittah shows (cover sheet) the two walls 2a of the first housing member are parallel to one another.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 14, Ittah shows (cover sheet) each cam surface 15 comprises one of a curved surface and a convex surface.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 15, Ittah shows ( figure 2 ) the abutment 22 is arranged on the first housing member 3.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 16, Ittah shows ( figure 4 ) a second locking arrangement 18 adapted to lock the locking lever 10 in the first position.

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-- In reference to Claim(s) 17, Ittah shows ( figure 4 ) the second locking arrangement has at least one boss 18 arranged on one of the two flanges 13 and at least one recess 17 ( column 2, line 48 ) arranged on one of the first housing member.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 18, Ittah shows ( figure 4 ) each of the two flanges 13 also have an opening (near the lead line of numeral 16 ) adapted to engage with one of the studs 5.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 19, Ittah shows (cover sheet) a method of locking together a first housing member 3 and a second housing member, the method shows

moving the first housing member 3 into engagement with the second housing 2 member; pivoting the locking lever 10 towards the locking position whereby each cam surfaces 15 engage with one of the studs 5; and

locking the locking lever 10 in the locking position with the locking arrangement.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

- Claim(s) 5 has(have) allowable subject matter.
- Claim(s) 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show at least one notch of a circular arc shape and the one notch being inclined so that an end adjacent to the second opposite edge is lower than an end adjacent to the first edge of the holding strip in combination with all the other elements of the claim and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

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If the application becomes allowable, any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter".

*Reasons for Allowance*

- Claims 2,20 and 21 are allowed.
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not show at least one notch of a circular arc shape and the one notch being inclined so that an end adjacent to the second opposite edge is lower than an end adjacent to the first edge of the holding strip in combination with all the other elements of the claim and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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*Conclusion*

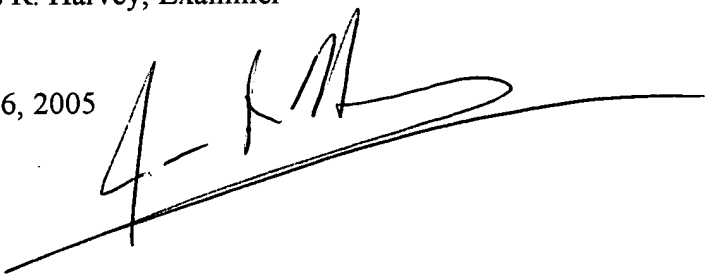
- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh  
April 6, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JRH' with a large, sweeping underline that extends across the signature area.